

OVER VIEW OF APICULTURE IN

GHANA

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BY

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LOCATION AND SIZE

- Has an area of 92,380 square miles.
- A West African country that shares boundary with Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso and Togo.

BRIEF HISTORY OF GHANA

- **First country in Sub-Saharan Africa where Europeans traded first in gold and later slaves.**
- **First black African nation to attain independence from British colonial rule on 6th March, 1957.**
- **Kwame Nkrumah, the first president, was deposed in a coup d'état heralding years of mostly military rule.**
- **In April 1992, a new constitution allowing for multi-party system of democracy was approved.**

BRIEF HISTORY OF GHANA cont'd

- It is the second largest producer of cocoa.
- It is seen as a model for political and economic reforms in Africa.
- Offshore oil reserves were discovered in June 2007 and crude oil production started at the end of 2010.
- Ghana has a high profile peacekeeping role worldwide.

CLIMATE

- Tropical
- Two rainy seasons : April – July
August – November
- In Northern Ghana, there is only one rainy season - April – September
- Harmattan - a dry desert wind blows from December to March.
- Temperature : lowest - August
highest - March

TOPOGRAPHY

- Mostly low plains
- Highest point – Mount Afadjato - 880 metres (2,887 ft)
- Volta Lake – largest man-made lake in the World.

POPULATION

- 25 million people (female 51% , male 49%) (2010 National Census).
- 75 ethnic groups.
- 78 persons per Sq. km.
- 70% of population lives in Southern Ghana.

ECONOMY

- **Natural resources – timber, minerals, fertile agric. land and fishing grounds.**
- **Agriculture contributes about 40% of GDP.
It employs 60% of the labor force**
- **Main export crop is cocoa.**
- **Mineral exports – gold, manganese, diamond and bauxite.**
- **Petroleum extract currently taking place near Axim in the Western Region.**

AGRICULTURE

- It is mostly rain-fed.
- Agriculture output grew by just 1 % between 1980 and 1990, 2.7 % between 1990 to 1997 5.3% in 1998 and 10 % recently. Two Presidents of Ghana have received Global Award for this achievement.

The Beginnings of Apiculture In Ghana

- Honey hunting and traditional beekeeping were the only sources of honey in the colonial era in Ghana
- Ghana Export Promotion Council imported some colony of bees which sooner perished.
- In 1966 the then President ordered 100 colonies of Caucasian bees from Russia but they all died.
- The idea of commercial beekeeping began in 1975.

The Beginnings of Apiculture In Ghana cont'd

- Traditional brass founders at Kurofoforom, a village of about 15km from Kumasi needed beeswax for their lost-wax process work. Thus they consulted the Technology Consultancy Centre (TCC) at University of Science and Technology for assistance.
- After a series of consultations two officers were sent to Kenya and Tanzania to study the feasibility of practising beekeeping in Ghana.

The Beginnings of Apiculture In Ghana cont'd

- On the return of the officers four beehives were constructed-two were sited in the University Botanic Garden and the other two were released to honey hunters who were under the NGO Association of People for Practical Life Education(APPLE)
- In 1981 the first bee training workshop was mounted; a prominent instructor then was Stephen Opoku-Agyare. In 1987 Ghana Regional Appropriate Technology Industrial Services (GRATIS) was established. GRATIS has supported apiculture in terms of the supply of bee equipment to bee enthusiasts and practitioners.

Definitions

- Apiculture or hived beekeeping is:
- The scientific management of bees in special enclosures
- Man's own way of housing bees under good management system in order to increase yield of hive products and obtain pollination benefit
- The semi-domestication of bees
- An agricultural practice of taking care of honey bees under certain favourable conditions.
- Beekeeping involves housing and managing bees so that bee population per colony increases to meet the honey production season
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- A Hive is a special unit with specific dimensions used for housing bees.
- Traditional Beekeeping is the method of keeping bees in traditional hives such as pots, skeps/baskets, logs and caves
- Honey Hunting is the practice of honey collection which involves the plundering of honey bee nests and cavities resulting in the destruction of brood and bees.

Comparison between Hived Beekeeping and Honey Hunting

| HIVED BEEKEEPING | HONEY HUNTING |
|--|---|
| | |
| | |
| Bees are kept and managed in apiary | Wild bee hives are scouted rather than kept and managed |
| Special equipment required | No special equipment required |
| Regular source of honey | Opportunistic and unreliable |
| Harvesting is regular and seasonal | Bees in nest for unknown volume of time- honey generally dark colored |
| Preservation of brood and bees | Loss of brood and bees |
| Colonies do not abscond | Colonies abscond |
| Good quality honey | Poor quality honey |
| Preservation of comb | Destruction of comb |
| Records easily kept | Record keeping difficult |
| Ecologically friendly due to use of smokers for honey collection | High risk of bush fires due to use of naked fire for honey collection |

Importance of Apiculture

- Discourages the harmful methods of honey hunting which kills bees
- Safeguards bees from practices which could potentially lead to their extinction
- Helps increase crop yields through the pollination of the bees
- Provides regular availability and easy access to honey and beeswax
- Supplies potentially lucrative means of increasing income

Beekeeping Potentials in Ghana

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Starting up a bee keeping project in Ghana

- Acquire a production place(apiary site)
- Establish the scope of the business(if the number of bee hives is high eg. 50 bee hives, the services of an expert bee -master will be required)
- To set up equipment
- To install bee hives
- To attract bees –hive occupancy rate –stocking /colonization rate
- Hive, bee and apiary management
- Hive product harvesting-harvesting of propolis
- Postharvest handling
- Honey extraction
- Bees wax rendering
- Value addition
- Acquire a honey press- equipment for draining honey out of honey combs
- Establish a honey room- where honey is drained and stored
- Plan on marketing and distribution

Causes of Failure of Beekeeping Projects

- Inappropriate technology, unsuitable technology
- Inadequate training
- Insufficient or misunderstanding of foreign support
- Inappropriate plans
- Lack of finance
- Lack of well trained personnel
- Environment destruction (inconvenient choice of project area)
- Poor implementation, monitoring and assessment
- Personal problems and corruption
- Inadequate transport facilities





































































